

## Women's History

### Women's History Month

Each March, the ICW joins other women's groups in participating in **National Women's History Month**. The ICW received a **proclamation** from the Governor proclaiming March as Women's History Month in the State of Indiana. The ICW staff and commissioners traveled across our State during March, and throughout the year, to provide discussions and presentations to various organizations and schools. Some discussions included: women in history, Title IX, sexual harassment, and gender equity.

### Historical Marker Dedication

On June 13, 2004 the ICW, along with the Indiana Women's History Association and the Central Christian Church sponsored a **Historical Marker for Zerelda Wallace**. Zerelda was the first President of the Christian Temperance Movement in Indiana in 1874 and a member of the Equal Suffrage Society. She spoke nationally on temperance and suffrage. She spoke before the Indiana General Assembly on a woman's right to vote where she delivered petitions with over 21,000 signatures from Hoosiers on this issue. She also spoke before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee on this same issue. You can visit the marker at Central Christian Church on 701 North Delaware Street in Indianapolis.

### United Nations – USA Day 2004

The United Nations asked Governor Kernan to recognize UN USA Day in Indiana. The United Nations Day theme for 2004 was *Women's Rights & Empowerment: The Millennium Development Goals and Gender Equity*. In collaboration with this day, the ICW prepared 2 programs. The first program was held in Ft. Wayne on the Certification on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Treaty. Representatives from IPFW, the Ft. Wayne Women's Bureau and Senator Evan Bayh's office participated in the panel discussion to create more awareness about CEDAW.

The second event was held on the Indiana University Campus in Bloomington in collaboration with the IU Gender Studies Department. The topic in Bloomington was Violence Against Women. The presentation was about violence against women in the U.S. and recognized the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. The presentation also discussed violence against women in other parts of the world. Presenters on the panel were Amy Holztworth, Professor of Psychology at IU; State Senator Vi Simpson of Bloomington; Toby Strout, Executive Director of Middle Way House; Julie Thomas, visiting lecturer at the IU Department of Gender Studies; and Suzanna Walters, Chair of the IU Department of Gender Studies.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a United States-sponsored resolution declaring the day that the United Nations (U.N.) Charter went into effect, October 24, as United Nations Day. This day is to be commemorated annually by all member-states of the U.N. Since 1947, United Nations Day has been observed in nations small and large around the world, including communities throughout the United States (U.S.).

### Indiana Women's History Trail

The ICW is also currently working with the Indiana Women's History Association and the Indiana Historical Bureau on an **Indiana Women's History Trail** that will map out notable women's historical locations across the State of Indiana. Further information about the trail will be available in the near future.

## Women's Health

### Illumination – Lighting the Way to Breast Cancer Awareness

The ICW joined with the Indiana Breast Cancer Alliance in 2003 and 2004 for the Illumination event at the Indianapolis Artsgarden. This annual event kicks-off breast cancer awareness month. The event, **Illumination – Lighting the Way to Breast Cancer Awareness** included speakers from the breast cancer community, along with a ceremony to honor victims and survivors of breast cancer. At sundown, the Artsgarden is illuminated in pink lighting for the evening. The illumination is in collaboration with the Estee Lauder Global Landmarks Illumination Initiative.

### **Breastfeeding State Plan**

The ICW has been working with the Indiana Breastfeeding Taskforce since 2003 on devising the Indiana Breastfeeding State Plan. This plan will be a useful resource full of information about the importance of breastfeeding for those in the medical community and those who work with expecting mothers. It is to be released in 2005 and will be provided to organizations across the State.

### **Sexual Assault Advocates Training**

The ICW partnered with the Criminal Justice Institute and the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA) to host a 5-day training for sexual assault victim's advocates during the summer of 2004. The training provided the attendees a uniform training with helpful information to better serve victims across the State. The training was paid for by funds from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grants.

## **Women and the Economy**

### **Women and Work Conference**

The ICW played a very large role in the planning and coordination of the 2003 and 2004 **Women and Work Conference**. The theme of the 2003 Conference was "Women Working to Make a Difference", and the 2004 theme was "Celebrating our Past, Building our Future". Approximately 100 women attended each year's event and heard from many notable speakers, including: Nancy Guyott, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Labor; Thia Hamilton, Deputy Director of Women Work!; and a special taped message from Lt. Governor Kathy Davis.

The conference is organized each year by an advisory board made up of federal, state and local agencies, private organizations, businesses, educational institutions and labor organizations who work to improve the status of women in the workplace. The conference demonstrates and encourages unique ways of working together, ensuring that Indiana women are offered the best possible education, job training, employment and support services available.

### **Indiana Girls Collaborative Project**

The Indiana Commission for Women was awarded a replication grant from the National Science Foundation and Puget Sounds in 2004 to be a regional collaborative for the National Girls Collaborative Project.

Numerous gender equity programs and initiatives in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) have been implemented only to lose effectiveness or fade away. Often these projects do not address sustainability as resources declined, personnel changed, or priorities shifted.

The purpose of the National Girls Collaborative Project is to replicate the Northwest Girls Collaborative Project in three regions (California, Indiana, and Massachusetts) throughout the United States in an effort to strengthen the capacity, impact, and sustainability of existing and evolving girl-serving STEM programs. Through collaboration among organizations, institutions, and businesses committed to expanding participation of women in STEM, existing and evolving projects will have a much greater chance of maintaining interest and participation of girls in STEM within the Indiana region.

Through replication of the Northwest Girls Collaborative Project model, the Indiana Girls Collaborative Project will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Connect existing and evolving projects and programs, identify gaps and overlaps of services in support of STEM for girls.
2. Maximize access to shared resources within projects and with public and private sector organizations and institutions interested in expanding girls' participation in STEM.
3. Invest in long-range planning for addressing gaps and overlaps in service delivery and long-term sustainability.
4. Strengthen capacity of existing and evolving projects by sharing research and program models, outcomes and products.

## **Women as Leaders & in Government**

### **Women's Leadership Exchange (WLE)**

The ICW continues to partner with central Indiana businesses and organizations to host a series titled "Women's Leadership Exchange (WLE)". This exchange brings together women leaders from Indiana to speak on various topics of leadership. The WLE is hosted in the Indiana Government Center complex and is open to the public free of charge.

### **ICW Talent Bank**

As a method of fulfilling our mandate to promote consideration of qualified women to all levels of government positions, the ICW maintains a Talent Bank of women who are interested in appointments to state boards, councils, commissions or task forces. As opportunities arise, the ICW forwards names of appropriate candidates to the appointing authority. While entry of names in the Talent Bank does not guarantee appointment, it does afford an opportunity for consideration for appointment. For a copy of the Talent Bank Form, please visit [www.IN.gov/icw](http://www.IN.gov/icw), or contact the commission at 317-233-6303.

### **ICW Legislative Issues Day**

In February the ICW partnered with the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Business and Professional Women (BPW) and the League of Women Voters (LWV) to host an issues day at the State House. Members from all organizations came together to hear from legislative leaders, members of the commission, women leaders in state government and members of the various women's organizations about important issues before the 2004 General Assembly. The attendees were able to attend committee hearings and meet with their legislators in the afternoon.

### **Torchbearer Awards**

The Indiana Commission created the concept for the Torchbearer Award for Women in winter of 2003. It was designed to be the highest honor given by the State of Indiana to Hoosier women who have overcome or removed barriers to equality or whose achievements have contributed to making our state a better place in which to live, work or raise a family.

The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) honored 23 women with a Torchbearer medallion in various categories. A council of judges comprised of women throughout the State determined the final awardees by using a three part pre-determined scoring process. The woman with the highest point rating was selected to be the Torchbearer in that category. In addition, the Council of Judges had the power to create special awards. These awards are the Community Spirit Award, Hoosier Ambassador Award, Trailblazer Award and the Heart of Indiana Award.

Notable Hoosier women were at hand to present the awards. In addition, former and current women State elected officials were honored with a procession at the beginning of the ceremony where First Lady Maggie Kernan presented each of them with a medallion. The statute, titled *Victory* (or known to some as Miss Victory or Miss Indiana), from the top of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is the image that was chosen to represent the Torchbearer Awards. *Victory* is symbolic of the character and achievements of each Torchbearer.

### ***Winners of the 2004 Indiana's Salute to Women Torchbearer Awards are:***

Advertising & Marketing Award - Glenda Steele, Plainfield  
Nominated by: Chateau Thomas Winery

The Arts - Joyce Sommers, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Indianapolis Arts Center

Education - Martha Chiscon, West Lafayette  
Nominated by: YWCA of Greater Lafayette

Entrepreneurship - Jane Martin, Bloomington  
Nominated by: Indiana University Foundation

Financial Services - Mary Bennett, South Bend  
Nominated by: Crowe Chizek & Company, LLC

Health, Medicine & Life Sciences - Patricia Treadwell M.D., Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Indiana Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics

Journalism & Communications - Lucy Himstedt, Evansville  
Nominated by: Neighborhood Educational Enrichment Development Site (NEEDS)

Labor Advocate - Cordelia Lewis-Burks, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Eastside Baptist Church

The Law - Virginia O'Leary, Oakland City  
Nominated by: Evansville Bar Association

Social Services - Ana Guisti, Fort Wayne  
Nominated by: Center for Nonviolence

Sports & Fitness - Marjorie Albohm, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Indiana Athletic Trainers Association

Volunteerism - Sue Webster, Crane  
Nominated by: Hoosier Hills Chapter – Federally Employed Women

Women in Government - Kathy L. Davis, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Youth Mentor - Mary Joan Dickson, Cedar Lake  
Nominated by: All Golfcar, Inc.

Family/Child Advocate - Donna Gore Olson, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Community Education and Child Advocacy Department

Mental Health Advocate - Cecilia Weber, Lafayette  
Nominated by: YWCA of Greater Lafayette

Non-Traditional Career - Andrea McCord, Bedford  
Nominated by: Lawrence County Juvenile Drug Court

ICW Lifetime Achievement - Jane Fribley, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Indiana Women's History Association

Woman of Promise Award - Alexandra Holderman, Mishawaka  
Nominated by: Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism

Community Spirit Award – Charlotte Zeitlow, Bloomington  
Nominated by: Middle Way House

Hoosier Ambassador Award – Judy Singleton, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series

Trailblazer Award – Myra Selby, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Community Hospitals of Indiana

Heart of Indiana Award – Julia Carson, Indianapolis  
Nominated by: Planned Parenthood of Indiana

**Publications**

### **2003-2004 Legislative Guide**

The Legislative Guide is a useful tool for women's organizations that are interested in learning more about the Indiana General Assembly and want to impact policy in the State of Indiana.

### **Funding Resources for Non-Traditional Women Students**

A financial aid resource for for non-traditional students.

### **Women's Organization Resource Guide 2003-2004**

A directory of women's organizations across the State of Indiana.

### **Resource Guide for Women Entrepreneurs**

A resource for women who are staring their own business.

### **Get the Facts Sheets**

Statistics on various women's health and economic issues.

## **Partnerships and Involvement**

The ICW attends conferences throughout the State annually to display materials and answer questions from Hoosiers about government services for women.

The ICW staff has been working with the Indiana Breastfeeding Taskforce since 2003 on devising the Indiana Breastfeeding State Plan. This plan will be a useful resource full of information about the importance of breastfeeding for those in the medical community and those who work with expecting mothers. It is to be released in 2005 and will be provided to organizations across the State. The ICW is also involved with the Building Bright Beginnings Council, the Office of Women's Health Advisory Board, Indiana Women's History Association Board of Directors, the Domestic Violence Roundtable, Women Work Advisory Board, and the **Healthy Families Project at the Indiana Women's Prison.**

The ICW continues to collaborate with Indiana's women's organizations and various state agencies on advocacy, program initiatives and outreach. The ICW would like to thank the following organizations for their support and efforts:

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)**  
**American Business Women's Association (ABWA)**  
**Ball State University Women's Studies Department**  
**Breast and Cervical Cancer Program at the IN State Dep. of Health**  
**Business and Professional Women (BPW)**  
**Central Indiana Women's Collaborative**  
**Department of Workforce Development**  
**Domestic Violence Network of Greater Indianapolis**  
**Federally Employed Women (FEW)**  
**Fort Wayne Women's Bureau**  
**Gender Fairness Coalition (GFC)**  
**Indiana 2016 Commission**

Indiana Breast Cancer Alliance  
Indiana Civil Rights Commission  
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV)  
Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA)  
Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism  
Indiana Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs  
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
Indiana Department of Corrections  
Indiana Perinatal Network (IPN)  
Indiana Women's History Association (IWHHA)  
Indiana University Gender Studies Department-Bloomington  
IPFW Gender Studies Department  
League of Women Voters (LWV)  
National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)  
National Organization for Women (NOW)  
Network of Women in Business  
Office of Minority Business Enterprise at the Indiana Department of Administration  
Office of Women's Health at the Indiana State Department of Health  
Planned Parenthood of Indiana  
Young Survivors Coalition

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